

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A communication apparatus which communicates with a plurality of wireless terminals, comprising:

an assignment order determination ~~part~~ unit which ~~determines~~ is arranged to determine an assignment order of wireless channels between said communication apparatus and said wireless terminals based on ~~an amount~~ a maximum stay time of data to be transmitted from a transmission end for every reception and for wireless terminal; ~~and communication quality at a reception end for every wireless terminal;~~ and

a wireless channel assignment ~~part~~ unit which ~~assigns~~ is arranged to assign, according to the thus-determined assignment order, the wireless channels between said communication apparatus and said wireless ~~terminal~~ terminals, including

a wireless terminal classification unit which is arranged to classify each wireless terminal into a first wireless terminal for which the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received has exceeded a predetermined time, or a second wireless terminal for which the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received has not exceeded the predetermined time;

wherein, when said communication apparatus acts as the reception end, said assignment order determination unit is arranged to determine said assignment order based on the communication quality measured in the said communication apparatus for each wireless terminal, and the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted measured in each wireless terminal and the measured result sent to the said communication apparatus;

and, said assignment order determination unit is arranged to give priority for the first wireless terminals over the second wireless terminals to determine the assignment order therefor.

Claims 2-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said communication apparatus acts as the transmission end, said assignment order determination unit is arranged to determine the assignment order of the wireless channels based on the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted measured in the said communication apparatus, and the communication quality measured in each wireless terminal.

Claim 20 (New): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said assignment order determination unit is arranged to determine, for said first wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and, then, the order of the communication quality, and, to determine, for said second wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the communication quality, and, then, the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received.

Claim 21 (New): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, based on the maximum stay time and the amount of data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and the communication quality, said assignment order determination unit is arranged to determine said assignment order.

Claim 22 (New): The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said assignment order determination unit is arranged to determine, for said first wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or of the data to be received, the order of the communication quality, and, then, the ascending order of the amount of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and, to determine, for said second wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the communication quality, the ascending order of the amount of data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and, then, the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received.

Claim 23 (New): The communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said assignment order determination unit is arranged to determine said assignment order between said communication apparatus and said wireless terminals based on the communication quality at the reception end for every wireless terminal by, determining the assignment order of the wireless channels between said communication apparatus and said wireless terminals based on the number of modulation levels corresponding to the communication quality at the reception end for every wireless terminal.

Claim 24 (New): A method of assigning wireless channels in a communication apparatus which communicates with a plurality of wireless terminals, comprising:

a) determining an assignment order of wireless channels between said communication apparatus and said wireless terminals based on a maximum stay time of data to be transmitted

from a transmission end for every wireless terminal, and the communication quality at a reception end for every wireless terminal; and

b) assigning, according to the thus-determined assignment order, the wireless channels between said communication apparatus and said wireless terminals, that when said communication apparatus acts as the reception end, said step a) includes a step of determining the assignment order of the wireless channels based on the communication quality measured in said communication apparatus for each wireless terminals, and the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted measured in each wireless terminal and the measured result sent to the said communication apparatus; and

c) classifying each wireless terminals into a first wireless terminal for which the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received has exceeded a predetermined time, or a second wireless terminal for which the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received has not exceeded the predetermined time.

wherein, said step a) includes the steps of giving priority for the first wireless terminals over the second wireless terminals to determine the assignment order.

Claim 25 (New): The method according to Claim 24, wherein when said communication apparatus acts as the transmission end, said step a) includes a step of determining said assignment order based on the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted measured in said communication apparatus, and the communication quality measured in each wireless terminal.

Claim 26 (New) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said step a) further comprises the steps of determining, for said first wireless terminals, said assignment order by

the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and, then, the order of the communication quality, and, while determining, for said second wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the communication quality, and, then, the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received.

Claim 27 (New): The method according to Claim 24, wherein said step a) further comprises a step of determining said assignment order, based on the maximum stay time and the amount of the data to be transmitted, and the communication quality.

Claim 28 (New): The method as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said step a) further comprises the steps of determining, for said first wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received, the order of the communication quality, and, then, the ascending order of the amount of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and, while determining, for said second wireless terminals, said assignment order by the order of the communication quality, the ascending order of the amount of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received, and, then, the order of the maximum stay time of the data to be transmitted or the data to be received.

Claim 29 (New): The method according to Claim 24, wherein said step a) further comprises the step of determining said assignment order between said communication apparatus and said wireless terminals based on the communication quality at the reception end for every wireless terminal, by determining said assignment order between said

communication apparatus and said wireless terminals based on the number of modulation levels corresponding to the communication quality at the reception end for every wireless terminal.